



MONTGOMERY COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

Isiah Leggett  
*County Executive*

Richard R. Bowers  
*Fire Chief*

**OFFICE OF THE FIRE MARSHAL**

**FIRE CODE ENFORCEMENT SECTION**

**ADMINISTRATIVE INTERPRETATION 9-02AM**

**CODE REFERENCE:** Executive Regulations Number 6-06AM Section 3.

**BACKGROUND:** This Administrative Interpretation clarifies when permit requirements for work on a fire alarm system.

NFPA 72 3.3.100 defines Maintenance as: "Work, including, but not limited to, repair, replacement, and service, performed to ensure that equipment operates properly."

**INTERPRETATION:**

A permit is required prior to any work on any fire alarm system except maintenance, as defined in NFPA 72 3.3.100, or emergency repairs or direct device replacement as described below.

A permit is required for any work on a fire alarm system that changes the system's coverage, diminishes the system's performance, or alters the system's original approved design.

Any replacement or alteration of the Fire Alarm Control Panel (FACP) requires a permit. If the FACP of a system is replaced with a FACP that is in any way different than the original FACP, the Office of the Fire Marshal considers this work to be "new" and all current visibility and audibility requirements throughout the entire building must be met.

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Fire Code Enforcement Section

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If a fire alarm system is out of service and the repair restoring the system to service requires a permit, the work to restore the system to service can proceed without the permit. The licensed contractor must apply for a permit for the work within 3 business days.

Initiating devices or notification appliances within a fire alarm system can be replaced without a permit provided:

- Original location is maintained,
- Identical device(s), or designated and approved replacements, from the original manufacturer are provided,
- Does not diminish the system performance,
- Does not alter the system as approved

A permit is not required for the testing and or maintenance work on an existing system.

All repair, replacement and maintenance work performed on any fire alarm system must be completed by an appropriately endorsed Montgomery County licensed Fire Alarm contractor. Documentation of the work shall be attached to the Record of Completion.

**PREPARED BY:** Battalion Chief Michael T. Hamilton  
Assistant Fire Marshal, Fire Code Enforcement

**DATE:** November 16, 2009

**FIRE MARSHAL:** Michael Love

**BUILDING OFFICIAL:** Robert Allen